

ALLEGED ASSAULT

Two Charges Fail

One of the humorous interludes which occasionally relieve the monotony of the daily round at the City Court occurred this morning, when Frank Cecil Tickle charged James Ruland with having assaulted him, and Elsie Ruland with having unlawfully detained a quantity of clothing belonging to him. He was represented by Mr. J. W. Clydesdale, and Mr. R. G. Cooper appeared for the defence.

Tickle was the first witness called, and some delay occurred while court orderlies conducted a vain search for him. The Magistrate said he would wait ten minutes, and no longer and if the man did not appear then the case would be struck off the list.

After a few minutes had elapsed Tickle ran into court and into the witness box. The Bench, however, was not ready, and he had to leave it again. When his name was called, he returned

When his name was called, he returned to the box, saying, "Salesman by profession. I will give my evidence without a lie." He was then sworn in the regular way.

He stated that he had been a boarder at Ruland's house. He owed £3 for board, and was asked to leave, which he did, leaving his belongings behind him. Later he went back and demanded his goods. He was told that he could not have them until he discharged his debt, although he had already paid £1 of this. He then went to the police office and obtained a summons for illegal detention of the goods.

Later he called at Ruland's house and knocked at the door. Ruland, who came to the door, asked him what he wanted. Witness replied, "I have called on a delicate mission, and if the goods are not handed over the law will have to take its course." Defendant still refused to hand over the goods, and witness said, "I will have to lay this charge." Ruland said, "Get out," and, swinging him around, struck him a severe blow on the back of the neck. He was partly stunned, and walked in a daze to the police station, where he made a complaint. He called later for the clothes which he was then allowed to take.

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Ruland's defence was a complete denial of the whole story of the assault. Tickle, he said, did not call on the night in question, at all, and he had only spoken to him once since he left the house.

Mr. Cooper stated that defendant had threatened him since the case started.

Both charges were dismissed, the first with costs against Tickle.

After the conclusion of the case, Tickle caused a disturbance, and had to be put out of the court, and then from the court-house, after which he hurled anathemas at the police force from the footpath.